

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1584

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1184

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SU

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI VISIT

REF: KHARTOUM 1150

1. MINED KHALID TOLD ME APRIL 23 HE HOPES SPEND GOOD DEAL OF TIME WHILE IN US (SEPTTEL) MAKING DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESEIDENT NIMEIRI'S PRIVATE VISIT IN JUNE. THIS HAD BEEN INITIATED BY INVITATION FROM GOVERNOR BLANTON OF TENNESSEE (WHO VISITED KHARTOUM LAST NOVEMBER) BUT NIMEIRI HAD NOT WISHED "ONLY TO VISIT TENNESSEE". IT HAD NOW BEEN ARRANGED THAT UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA WOULD GIVE NIMEIRI HONORAY DEGREE. VISITS TO CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA ALSO WERE PLANNED WHILE NIMEIRI HIMSELF INSISTED ON INCLUDING KANSAS WHERE HE HAD HAD HAPPY YEAR AT FORT LEAVENWORTH CGSS. KHALID THEN SAID NIMEIRI OF COURSE HOPED BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON AND ASKED WHETHER VISIT TO CAPITAL SHOULD PRECEDE OTHER US STOPS. NOTING PARTICULAR PRESSUES ON PRESIDENT AND OTHER TOP-LEVEL WASHINGTON OFFICIALS DURING ELECTION YEAR, I COMMENTED PERSONALLY IT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE TO USG FROM PROTOCL STANDPOINT AT WHAT STATE IN HIS TOUR NIMEIRI VISITED WASHINGTON BUT IT WOULD BE USEFUL KNOW SOON TRIP'S INCLUSIVE DATES. DEPARTMENT WOULD THEN BE IN POSITION DETERMINE WHAT MIGHT BE MOST MUTUALLY COVENIENT TIME ATTEMPT SCHEDULE APPROPRIATE VISITS IN WASHINGTON. KHALID AGREED BUT SAID PRECISE DATES NOT YET FIRM.

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2. KHALID ASKED WHOM NIMEIRI SHOULD SEE IN WASHINGTON "ASIDE FROM PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY". I SUGGESTED THAT, IN LIGHT GROWING AVERICAN BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT HERE, CALLS ON HEAD OF EXIM AND OPIC WOULD BE USEFUL. KHALID SAID EFFORTS ALREADY WELL ALONG TO ARRANGE VISITS WITH NUMBER OF SENATORS, AMONG WHOM HE MENTIONED SENATOR CLARK (D-IOWA).

3. KHALID NOTED MINSTATE DENG NOW WORKING ON NIMEIRI'S PROPOSED PROGRAM BUT WOULD SOON BE RETURNING KHARTOUM. REGIME WAS LOOKING FOR ABLE AND ARTICULATE REPLACEMENT FAMILIAR WITH AMERICAN WAYS. SO FAR IDEAL CANDIDATE NOT LOCATED, BUT THEY HOPED HAVE ONE ON BOARD BY TIME OF NIMEIRI'S VISIT.

4. COMMENT. KHALID LOOKED TIRED (HE AVERAGES ONLY 5-6 HOURS OF SLEEP A NIGHT) BUT SEEMED GENERALLY FIT AND GAVE NO INDICATION OF SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL COMPLAINT. HIS STAY AT WALTER REED (WHICH WE HAD NOT REALIZED COULD BE SO EXTENDED FOR SIMPLE PHYSICAL EXAM) MAY THEREFORE BE TO LARGE EXTENT COVER FOR KHALID'S OTHER ACTIVITIES. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT BOTH KHALID AND ADNAN KHASHOGGI (KHARTOUM 1150) LIKELY TO GO ALL OUT TO DEVELOP MOST ENTICING US PROGRAM FOR NIMEIRI IN ORDER ASSURE THAT HE MAKES TRIP (AS DEPT AWARE, KHASHOGGI'S TRIAD CORP. HAS NUMBER OF BANKING AND AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIARIES IN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA).

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR NIMEIRI BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE HIGHLY GRATIFYING TO SUDANESE. IF, HOWEVER, SUCH TOP-LEVEL TREATMENT LIKELY PROVE DIFFICULT ARRANGE VIEW JUNE SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, IT WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE GET THIS ACROSS TO KHALID WHILE HE IS IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK LEST FALSE HOPES BE RAISED WHICH THEN HAVE TO BE DISSAPPOINTED AT LATER STAGE. BREWER

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